

Boston, Dec. 2, 1848.

My dear friend May: -

I am very sorry it so happens that I cannot be at your anti-slavery gathering to-morrow at North Brookfield, as it is a long time since I visited that town, or have met the friends of Worcester County in Convention; but, positively, I am neither mentally nor bodily fitted, at this time, to participate in any public meeting. My water "crisis," in the development of humor and boils, is very annoying, though I trust in the end <sup>it</sup> will be very serviceable to me. I must "wait a little longer," before it will be prudent for me to leave home <sup>even</sup> temporarily. Besides, three of my children are on the sick list, with colds and coughs and some fever - Wendell, Charles and Fanny - and they need my care and presence, though not seriously ill.

All I can do is to hope that your meetings will be <sup>well</sup> attended, and your discussions judiciously adapted to the place in which you are to assemble. There is a great deal of prejudice against us in North Brookfield, and very little knowledge of what we desire and seek. Under such circumstances, the injunction of the Saviour, to "be wise as serpents, and harmless as doves," is worthy of special observance. I would hide no part of the truth, of course; yet



Boston, March 3, 1848.



My dear friend May:

I am very sorry it so happens that I cannot  
be at your anti-slavery gathering to-morrow as I had  
thought, as it is a long time since I visited the  
town, or had any of the friends of the cause to  
write, but, particularly, I am unable to do so  
fully, at this time, to participate in any public meet-  
ing. My sister "Carrie" is the daughter of a  
gentleman, who is very unwell, and she is  
ill, and she is very unwell. I must wait until  
the day, before it will be possible for me to  
and my daughter. Besides, they of my children are  
on the sick list, with colds and coughs and have  
over - the - hills, - and - and - and - and - and -  
and - and - and - and - and - and - and - and -  
All I can do is to hope that your meet-  
ing will be attended, and your discussions interesting  
and that the cause is what you are so anxious  
there is a great deal of prejudice against us in that  
town, and very little knowledge of what we do  
do for and seek. I have much to say on this  
subject of the Convention, to be held at Hartford, and  
I have no doubt, is worthy of special consideration.  
I would like to see a part of the meeting, yet



I think it would be wise to explain our own positions, religiously and politically, as to the good cause in which we are engaged, rather than to deal in much severity of speech towards those who are not yet with us. When we know there will be a spirit present, on the part of some hearers, that will readily pervert what may be unguardedly or hastily spoken, it is at such times, on such occasions, and in such places, we should be specially careful of the manner in which we present and advocate our views.

As for the "Free Soil" movement, I am for hailing it as a cheering sign of the times, and an unmistakable proof of the progress we have made, under God, in changing public sentiment. Those who have left the Whig and Democratic ~~movements~~ <sup>parties,</sup> for conscience sake, and joined that movement, deserve our commendation and sympathy; at the same time, it is our duty to show them and all others, that there is a higher position to be attained by them, or they will have the blood of the slave staining their garments. This can be done charitably, yet faithfully. On the two old parties, especially the Whig Fugler party, I would expend — pro tempore at least — our heaviest ammunition.

Hastily, but faithfully yours,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.



Samuel May, Jr.

Boston.